

111TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. CON. RES. 110

Supporting the goals and ideals of National Celiac Awareness Month, and  
for other purposes.

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IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 27, 2009

Mrs. LOWEY submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred  
to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

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## CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Supporting the goals and ideals of National Celiac Awareness  
Month, and for other purposes.

Whereas celiac disease, or gluten intolerance, is a genetic autoimmune disease that affects 1 of every 133 people in the United States;

Whereas research indicates that there are approximately 3 million people with celiac disease in the United States, yet only approximately 120,000 of those have been diagnosed;

Whereas approximately 1 in 22 first-degree relatives of people diagnosed with celiac disease will also be diagnosed with celiac disease;

Whereas the average time frame for diagnosing celiac disease in the United States is 11 years from the original onset of symptoms;

Whereas celiac disease affects equal percentages of men and women;

Whereas celiac disease may have severe and varied detrimental effects on the body, and the health care costs associated with celiac disease are unknown;

Whereas people with celiac disease tend to have other autoimmune diseases as well;

Whereas it is estimated at approximately 10 percent of individuals with Type I Diabetes and an estimated 16 percent of individuals with Down Syndrome have celiac disease;

Whereas the only known treatment for celiac disease is strict adherence to a gluten-free diet;

Whereas it is particularly important for students with celiac disease to have access to their medically prescribed diet while at school and in school-based activities;

Whereas the NIH Consensus Development Conference on Celiac Disease held in June 2004 found that consultation with a skilled dietitian and identification and treatment of nutritional deficiencies were key elements in the management of celiac disease;

Whereas the consensus panel on celiac disease recommended the standardization of serologic tests and pathologic criteria for the diagnosis of celiac disease, the adoption of a standard definition of a gluten-free diet based on objective evidence such as that being developed by the American Dietetic Association, and the development of an adequate testing procedure to determine the amount of glu-

ten in foods and of a definition of standards for gluten-free foods in the United States to lay the foundation for rational food labeling;

Whereas increased recognition and awareness of celiac disease will have a significant positive impact on the quality of life of people with celiac disease; and

Whereas numerous organizations recognize May as National Celiac Awareness Month: Now, therefore, be it

1       *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*  
2 *concurring)*, That Congress—

3           (1) supports the goals and ideals of National  
4       Celiac Awareness Month;

5           (2) should work with health care providers and  
6       celiac disease advocacy and education organizations  
7       to encourage screening and early detection of celiac  
8       disease; and

9           (3) should increase Federal funding for celiac  
10       disease research.

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